3220 Cleveland Ave NW

Harold Weisberg
Rt. 8, Frederick, Md. 21701
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Dear Mr. Wurf,

The appearance of your silence and that of Mr. Zwerdling as well as your reluctance to make even a gesture of cooperation where the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is concerned disturb me and prompt this letter because I am aware that these must have been busy days for you.

I am the unpaid investigator in the Ray defense, all of which is unpaid. I write this at 4 a.m., before beginning other work, because I am concerned. I do not want there to be any chance of misunderstanding.

When I obtained the tape of which Bud Fensterwald phoned you three weeks ago yesterday, because he is chief counsel I told him about it immediately. He said you and he had met so he phoned you. When you refused to say anything and referred him to Mr. Zwerdling as your counsel, I psoke to Mr. Zwerdling because the first-hand information is mine, as is the tape. I tried to convey to Mr. Zwerdling my belief that aside from any interest you may have in justice and Dr. King the content of this tape as it relates to you is something of whoih you should both be aware. It connects your union and you personally with the assassination. Obviously if I believed this I would not be writing you. My interest is in other portions of what Harris said. He was quite drunk but there is high credibility in these other portions.

Whether you believe me or not I owe it to you to offer my opinion. An evidentiary hearing, ordered by the 6th circuit court of appeals and affirmed by the Supreme Court, will be held soon. Without the gorssest miscarriage of justice there will then for the first time be a trial. At that thime Ray inevitably will be acquitted and there will be a frantic search for scapegoats. Because I have conducted what investigation has been possible without funding and with no help at all from those who pose as Dr. King's friends, of which your silence is but the most recent example, I tell you for what it is worth that there is not enough evidence against Ray for the case to go to the jury. With this limited investigation he should walk out on a number of different counts.

Memphis authorities spent more money keeping a non-witness made into the star witness sober and out of trouble than it did investigating the case. The investigation's was the FBI's. I have already torn it pretty well apart. The lawyers will leave nothing of it. It is a pseudo case built on deliberate fraud, perjury and its subornation, and misrepresentation, possible only in the absence of any defense. Thus the 6th-circuit's order.

The FBI had a dub of this tape. I know to whom it was given, when and by whom. If they have not been in touch with you this alone should give you questions. If they have, do you not think you owe it to the defense and to the memory of Dr. King to have been responsive to us? Are you so little concerned about this terrible crime, about the murder of this man, about your union's involvement in it, particularly with your union's situation today? Do you think no preparations have been made for the day when this case would come apart? One of the first things I investigated was just that and I knew enough three and a half years ago. A racist, anti-union second line had been constructed then. This tape is a big assist to the second frame-up.

As I told Mr. Zwerdling, this case reminds me of many trade-union cases in my past experience. I wrote the brief for the first hearings of the old LaFollette civil-liberties investigation and I represented the Senate in the Harlan County prosecutions in 1937. I am not without experience in such matters. But it is not merely a matter of taking my word because you have not informed yourself of the content of our evidence.

Nor, I believe, have you any way of knowing what it fits and how it fits in with other evidence. I mean this two way: in proper use by the defense and in improper use by those anxious for the crime not to be solved.

Right now very few people outside the FBI know of this. I have told only those who have to know and I have dubplicated the tape safely outside my possession. In time this will change. That time does not seem to be far off. If anything happens to Ray it will be much sooner. Either way something is going to happen soon.

Aside from where your interest lies, and that you, not I, decide, there is the separate question of your silence when we asked for all the information you can supply about Harris. I now renew this request. I would also like to know if you know or can learn his present whereabouts so we can interview him. Unless you or the union have an involvement I do not believe you had I find it impossible to believe that you would not want to do what it is within your power to do to help solve this crime and to help a case of simple justice.

Bill Harris was your subordinate in the union. You and he were together in Memphis. You and your people have to know much that we need to know and should have in the fullest possible detail, including all those with whom he and you met in Memphis.

Your silence prompts the belief that this matter is not entirely strange to you. Whether or not it is I think you should also consider that unless you have made or had made the kind of investigation I have conducted you cannot be in a position to understand all it can mean.

Frankly, I am sorely troubled that any union president is so unconcerned about the murder of a man like Dr. King, more so when he gave his life in an effort to improve the conditions of the members of your union.

My offer for you and Mr. Zwerdling or anyone you may want with you to hear this tape still stands. I am but an hour from downtown Washington. I also get there once in a while. Whether or not you do this, I do hope that you will provide me with all the information you should be able to deliver so that I may investigate this further and so that we may not be caught by surprise with another frame-up.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg